

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: College Possible

Application ID: 13ES145338

Program Name: College Possible College Success Program

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The applicant details the target community as a low-income, traditional, college-going population.
- (+) The applicant provides compelling need to increase college persistence and graduation rates of low income students. For instance, 8% of young people from low-income backgrounds earn a college degree compared to 82% of their wealthier peers. More so, the six year degree attainment rate for the state is Caucasian 62%, African-American 43% and 54% for Latino students.
- (+) The applicant provides documented statistics of the target community by stating that 91% are students of color, average household income is \$25,000 far below the national average, and most are first-generation college students.
- (+) The applicant describes clear roles for AmeriCorps members and provides specific example of activities members will be engaged in during their term of service. For example, the applicant will utilize 20 full-time members to serve as coaches for their college program in one of the three following areas: High School Program, college Program and 9th and 10th grade workshops. Members will be responsible for 125 students and will utilize face to face contact and social media to assist students through college persistence.
- (+) The applicant provides compelling data on how the members will play a vital role in the community. For instance, the increased rate of college persistence and graduation rates in the community would increase the revenue power of the state.
- (+) As stated by the applicant, AmeriCorps members will deliver three programs: the High School Program, which helps students address college access barriers and earn admission; the College Program, which fosters college persistence and degree completion; and college planning workshops for 9th and 10th graders. According to the applicant, each AmeriCorps member will serve as a coach in the College Program and will support a portfolio of approximately 125 students enrolled in institutions across Minnesota.

- (+) The applicant documented how the members are vital to the success of the project by increasing the college persistence and graduation rates within the state amongst low-income students.
- (+) By citing academic research and the U.S. Department of Education, and modeling its practices, the applicant is able to identify academic barriers to college success that will result in an increase in the low-income, college-going population.
- (-) The applicant does not provide specific data on the numbers of low income students they serve or of the potential target population. Although they state 91% are students of color, it is unclear out of what number is this based off of.
- (-) The applicant does not include outcomes for the program or the change they expect to see within the proposed program.
- (-) Through the National Student Clearinghouse and attendance logs, the applicant was able to determine the targeted number of students to begin a CNCS-supported education program and the number of students to earn a post-secondary degree. The applicant does not state or describe how the impact of AmeriCorps members serving as coaches to low-income, college-going students will be measured.